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# JOINT COUNCIL UPDATE

JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Secretariat:  
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## SECRETARY BLOCK SEES IMPORTANT ROLE FOR COUNCIL

In a recent meeting with Joint Council Cochairmen Anson Bertrand and James Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block reiterated his support for the Joint Council and his desire to use it as a major link with the food and agriculture science and education community.

Since May, Secretary Block, Executive Assistant Ray Lett, and other top USDA officials have met with the Council or Executive Committee to discuss key issues.

## CONGRESSMAN BROWN URGES LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, met with the Joint Council Executive Committee and informally discussed some of his ideas on long-range planning in agricultural research. The recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report "Long-Range Planning Can Improve the Efficiency of Agricultural Research and Development" was done at his request.

Congressman Brown emphasized the need for longer range planning. He said that such efforts must involve the best and the brightest minds, and that the planning process must reflect democratic goals with broad-based participation of many groups involved in agricultural research and education.

Mr. Brown commended the Joint Council for its productive efforts, but urged it to do more to not only address day-to-day problems but also to set priorities for the longer term.

## COUNCIL PLANS FOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT, FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Pending Title XIV legislation, with language attributed to Congressman Brown, calls for an Assessment of future food and agriculture needs and a Joint Council Five-Year Plan defining strategies to meet these needs. The Joint Council Executive Committee will oversee the Assessment and preparation of these reports.

The Needs Assessment will be based on existing long-range projections and will serve as the basis for the Five-Year Plan, budget priorities, and longer term strategic planning.

Input will come from such groups as the Joint Council Regional Councils and National Committees, ESCOP, ECOP, RICOP, 1890 Schools, Home Economics, Veterinary Medicine, OSTP, AASCU, ASCUFRO, AAU, and Federal agencies.

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INTERNATIONAL ISSUES EXPLORED

The Council focused on international food and agricultural science at its October meeting.

Officials from the Agency for International Development (AID), the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), the International Science and Education Council (ISEC), and USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) discussed their programs and how the Joint Council might work with them.

All underlined the need for trained personnel in the international area and the importance of the partnership of BIFAD, USDA, universities, and the private sector.

WATER IS PRIORITY ISSUE

Earlier this year, the Council identified water as its top priority issue.

The Joint Council Standing Committee on Water held its initial meeting in September and decided to analyze: (1) the adequacy of data on research, extension, and teaching programs related to water and agriculture and (2) the adequacy of impact evaluation studies on water.

Garrey Carruthers, Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Resources, Department of Interior (DOI), addressed the Council's October session and discussed DOI's policies on water resources.

According to Carruthers, a cornerstone of current DOI water policy is States rights -- States must take leadership in management and allocation of their water resources. He recommended the Council examine coordination of water resources research in the Federal Government.

INTEGRATED INFORMATION SYSTEM IS CONSIDERED

The ability to describe research, extension, and education programs in a common language based on compatible data bases has been recognized as a crucial need by the Joint Council.

State legislatures, the Congress, OMB, and other decisionmakers frequently request information presented in broad categories cutting across teaching, research, and extension, or in specific problem areas such as energy, integrated pest management, etc.

Functional information systems currently used (CRIS, EMIS, NARS, PARIS) would still be used but would "crosswalk" into an integrated system.

The Council adopted the concept of a common program structure and agreed to work toward the long-range objective of a compatible data base.

#### OTA REPORT IS COMPLETE

Mike Phillips, OTA, informed Council members that the OTA Assessment of U. S. Food and Agriculture Research has been completed.

Although the report recommends increased Federal funding of agricultural research, it also identifies: (1) a lack of expressed goals for food and agriculture research; (2) a lack of continuous long-range planning with decisions being made mostly on an ad hoc basis; (3) overlapping and in some cases indistinguishable roles of the various partners in the system; and (4) a lack of overall coordination.

According to Phillips, the Congress needs integrated information about the goals of the agricultural research sector, what will be accomplished, and by which components of the system.

The report will be released November 30. A summary of the report may be obtained at that time from Mike Phillips, Food and Renewable Resources Project, OTA, U. S. Congress, Washington, D.C. 20510.

#### COUNCIL EVALUATES EFFORTS, PLANS FUTURE DIRECTION

In October, the Council examined its accomplishments and effectiveness over the past three years and discussed directions for 1982 and beyond.

Broad objectives for the next year will include: (1) maintaining regular communication with the Office of the Secretary; (2) improving communication with leaders of non-Federal research and education organizations, with the Congress, and the Executive Office of the President; (3) focusing on longer range planning; and (4) encouraging increased coordination by the Regional Councils and National Committees.

The Agenda Committee will follow up with specific recommendations for the 1982 agenda.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Proposed Title XIV legislation calls for 50 percent Land-Grant representation on the Joint Council and a total membership of at least 25.

The Council has asked the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) to make recommendations for 17 slots.

Secretary Block will determine the final size and composition of the Council.



REGIONAL COUNCIL, NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Northeast Regional Council, the National Extension Committee, and the National Agricultural Research Committee have held meetings since July.

The Northeast Regional Council reports coordination efforts across teaching, research, and extension in animal health.

National Extension Committee priorities include energy, technology transfer, and research-extension linkages.

The National Agricultural Research Committee is overseeing a pilot technology assessment of corn (Sundquist, Minnesota) and has appointed committees to draft two brochures - one describing the regional/national agricultural research planning process, and another to describe the features of basic agricultural research. NARC will publish its regional/national research projections report in December.